Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) in pursuance of their Seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) pertaining to Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Urban Development.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the eighty-third report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table a Statement regarding 'Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighty-third Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Deputy chairman, sir, I have to submit, in advance, that I have a deficiency today, I am somewhat debilitated. I have got fever and a very bad throat, But, because I have said that I will initiate the discussion, I did not wish to be discourteous to the House and I shall endeavour with my speech, maybe, at fault. But, I beg the indulgence of the House in that regard.

We have had some earlier discussions on matters impinging on foreign policy. For example, on the IAEA vote and Iran, or, the nuclear matter and as far as the USA is concerned. But the discussions on those incidents were not really discussion on foreign policy as such. Therefore, i would make a distinction between the two.

At the very beginning, I wish to submit to the House that there is quite thin attendance. So, let us be assured that discussions on external affairs are not just one-day matches. And, we don't see this as an opportunity to grant or deny certificates of patriotism either to somebody of the Govemment or another. But I will make an observation here, Sir, I have watched, over the years, that the ruling party has a tendency to indulge in what I call unreal iconography.